

## **New England Multispecies Groundfish Fishery II**

**Date of Declaration/Determination:** August 2, 1995

**Location:** New England, Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank

**Description/Cause:** Continued disastrous situation in the multispecies groundfish fishery due to natural disaster of unknown causes (exacerbated by overfishing)

**Authority:** Sec 308(d) of IFA

**Appropriation:** 1995--\$25 million

\$23 million--buyback

\$0.5 million--administration

\$2 million--fishermen's health insurance

### **Assistance Provided:**

There was \$23 million available for a vessel buyback, of which \$500 K was used to administer the buyback program. Vessels were required to be scrapped or converted to a non-fishing use, and the permits associated with bought-back vessels were surrendered. The program used a reverse auction process to determine which vessels would be bought back. A total of 68 vessels were bought back for a total of \$22.5 million. Of these, 58 vessels were scrapped or sunk, and the remaining 10 vessels were transferred to eligible entities for non fishing uses. The buyback also removed 475 permits associated with these vessels (68 for multispecies and 407 other permits) from the fishery. All of the permits were permanently revoked.

NOAA also awarded a \$2 million grant to Caritas Christi, Inc., for the Fishing Partnership Health Program (FPHP). The FPHP was monitored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA).

**Appropriation:** FY 1999--\$1 million

### **Assistance Provided:**

Funds were used to continue the FPHP, pursuant to original declaration. NOAA awarded the grant in September 2000. HCFA is no longer involved in monitoring, but a detailee to NOAA from HCFA is serving as the Program Officer.